

Remarks

By the foregoing amendments, the specification has been amended to replace the sequence listing as filed in the international application with a substitute sequence listing in proper format for U.S. practice; these amendments add no new matter. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821-1.825, the computer readable and paper copies of the substitute sequence listing submitted herewith are the same and include no new matter.

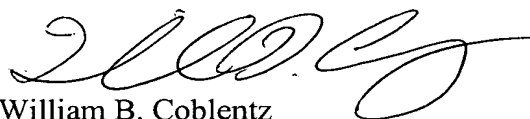
Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 5-9 and 12-30 are pending in the application, with 1, 7-9, 16 and 19 being the independent claims. These amendments are sought to place the claims into better form for U.S. practice and do not introduce new matter. Hence, their entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



William B. Coblentz
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 57,104

Date: March 6, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
502529_1.DOC